

97-84201-21

Independent Labour Party
Great Britain)

Annual report, 1922-23

[London]

[1923]

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- 1 040 PR1 v c PR1 +
- 2 007 h v b d v d a v e f v f a --- v g b v h a v i c v j p +
- 3 007 h v b d v d a v e f v f a --- v g b v h a v i a v j p +
- 4 007 h v b d v d a v e f v f a --- v g b v h a v i b v j p +
- 5 049 PR1A +
- 6 110 2 Independent Labour Party (Great Britain). v b Information
Committee. +
- 7 245 10 Annual report, 1922-23 v h [microform] / v c Independent Labour
PartyInformation Committee. +
- 8 260 [London : v b I.L.P. Information Committee, v c 1923] +
- 9 300 [4] p. ; v c 22 cm. +
- 10 500 Caption title. +

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TECHNICAL MICROFORM DATA

FILM SIZE: 35mm

REDUCTION RATIO: 9:1

IMAGE PLACEMENT: IA IIA IB IIB

DATE FILMED: 9-30-97

INITIALS: AP

TRACKING #: 28167

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INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY INFORMATION COMMITTEE.

5 York Buildings.
Adelphi,
London, W.C. 2.

Executive Committee.

Representing the N.A.C.

R. C. Wallhead, M.P., Chairman
Morgan Jones, M.P.
C. R. Attlee, M.P.
J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P.
Herbert Morrison

E. E. Hunter, Secretary

Representing the Members.

Mary Agnes Hamilton
Reginald Stamp
F. Seymour Cocks
George Burgneay
L. Silkin, Treasurer

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Box 815

The ANNUAL MEETING of the I.L.P. INFORMATION COMMITTEE will be held on SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1923, at 6 p.m., at the MORTIMER HALL, MORTIMER STREET, LONDON, W. (3 minutes from Oxford Circus), to consider the ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT and to appoint Officers & Committee for 1923-24. Tea will be provided at 5 p.m.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1922-23

With this report we pass our third birthday. Looking back, the Committee can record a year of strenuous and successful life. Our support is growing. We are constantly launching out in new directions. In the past year we did our part in helping towards the great I.L.P. victories at the polls; we are now preparing to assist in carrying them further, by an unremitting effort to improve our own equipment and thereby serve the movement on its educational side. We can record facts and figures showing that our work has taken deep root and is increasingly recognised as indispensable by large numbers of men and women in the Socialist and Labour movement.

WEEKLY NOTES FOR SPEAKERS.—The circulation of the Speakers' Notes is 1,450 weekly, and is on a most satisfactory basis, the "free list" having been reduced to almost negligible proportions. This circulation has now gone far beyond the borders of the I.L.P. Many important Trade Union and Co-operative bodies are availing themselves of the Committee's services. Some Trade Unions are subscribing for sufficient copies for all their candidates, agents, and officials, while speakers' classes are taking a quantity for their weekly meetings. The N.U.R. London Divisional Council is asking us to prepare three special notes on railway matters which it is intended to supply to all N.U.R. branches throughout the country.

Among affiliated societies are:—Amalgamated Engineering Union, The Co-operative Party and Congress, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, Railway Clerks' Association, Women's Co-operative Guild and a number of local Labour Parties and Trades Councils, etc. 124 I.L.P. branches are affiliated, but there is still room for much improvement in this direction. If every branch of the Party was associated with the Committee we should have no financial anxiety.

GENERAL ELECTION NOTES.—During the General Election the Committee issued a series of daily Notes, which were widely used by candidates, agents and speakers. 1,650 were posted daily. Many appreciative letters were received, and there are general indications that the Notes were of considerable assistance to many of the people engaged in the constituencies.

VOTING RECORDS.—The General Election led to an increased demand for M.P.'s Voting Records, and these were supplied to a number of constituencies.

PUBLICATIONS.—During the year the complete editions of the Study Circle Syllabuses by J. Ramsay MacDonald and Mary Agnes Hamilton were exhausted, and only a few copies of E. E. Hunter's "Socialism at Work," remain unsold. The new autumn syllabuses were delayed by the General Election, but the following are now on sale:—

No. 4.—"Economic History." C. R. ATTLEE, M.A., M.P.
No. 5.—"Foreign Affairs." E. D. MOREL, M.P., and H. B. LEES-SMITH, M.P.

A new edition of "The Capitalist Press," thoroughly revised and brought up-to-date, is in the printer's hands, and a pamphlet on "Business and Politics" is in active preparation. It is also proposed to issue in a revised form for popular reading, Mr. MacDonald's "History of the I.L.P." It is believed that a wide circle of enquirers desires a concise and cheap story of the I.L.P.'s development. This reprint should be ready by the Annual Meeting. Among other contemplated publications is a series of handy booklets, each containing 50 useful propaganda points, to be called the *50 Points Library*.

MONTHLY SPEAKERS' NOTES.—A series of Monthly Notes dealing with books and affairs, in a more extended and deeper manner than is either possible or desirable in the Weekly Notes, is our latest venture. The first number is issued this month and a copy accompanies this report.

PARLIAMENTARY WORK.—The I.L.P. successes at the poll naturally resulted in an increased volume of work, and last December the N.A.C. asked the Committee to develop its machinery in order to render greater help to the I.L.P. Parliamentary group. For this purpose the N.A.C. made an additional grant to carry the Committee on till the Annual Conference and thus enabled us to engage additional assistance. This course has been amply justified by the additional work which we have been able to undertake.

The Parliamentary group meets every Friday morning at the House of Commons, with Col. J. C. Wedgwood, M.P., as sessional chairman, and E. E. Hunter as secretary. At these meetings the business of the week is discussed, and members encouraged to demand from the Committee information and statistics on all the matters under discussion. The Committee has already been able to demonstrate its usefulness in a number of ways, and as machinery develops and M.P.'s thoroughly realise the help that is at their disposal, the I.L.P. Information Committee will play an increasingly important part in providing our members with the means of carrying on the Parliamentary fight.

The Parliamentary Report which the I.L.P. group is presenting to the Annual Conference, is evidence of the close co-operation between the members and the Committee.

In the near future it is proposed to engage additional staff assistance in this department, and to extend our office accommodation in order to provide a reception and reference room for Members of Parliament.

FINANCE.—During the year the total receipts of the Committee for subscriptions, affiliations and donations have amounted to £859 1s. 1d. as against £713 9s. 2d. for 1921-2. The Committee has received from the N.A.C. a grant of £300 for the year, in addition to special grants of £150 and £20 to meet the increased cost of Parliamentary work and General Election Notes. Other receipts have been approximately as in the previous year, except as regards literature sales, which have fallen very low as a result of losing our Study Circle market, which was due to the intervention of the General Election.

On the expenditure side, salaries have increased from £662 12s. 5d. to £849 3s. 11d., but this latter figure includes £33 6s. 8d. properly chargeable to the previous year. We have been enabled to clear off outstanding printing accounts to the value of £57 3s. 2d., which belonged to 1921-2. The rest of the expenditure is normal and does not call for any special comment.

GENERAL.—This report must of necessity fail to give an adequate impression of the Committee's work. So much consists in dealing with day-to-day queries covering the whole field of social and political information, in helping propagandists on knotty points, in keeping men and women informed as to the powers of local authorities, etc., that the only perfect method of report would be to present a tabulated list of our many services. There is almost endless room for extending this kind of work, and your Committee is keen on the most expeditious development.

Two circumstances led to the Committee "marking time" during three months of the past year. First, the Secretary, E. E. Hunter, acted as Hon. Director of the Winter Campaign; and second, during the General Election, as Mr. MacDonald's Election Agent at Aberavon. The Information Committee was glad to release its secretary for these important tasks; but now they are accomplished, hopes to be freer to make still more substantial headway.

But real further progress depends on a substantial increase in the department's normal revenue. The minimum annual subscription of 10/- is quite nominal; when printing, postage, and other charges on the Weekly Notes have been met there is very little left for other purposes. The Committee does not desire to raise the subscription, as it is essential to make our Notes and information easily accessible to those whose means are limited. On the other hand it is felt that there are many who could afford to send us every year something over and above the small annual subscription. We have been fortunate this year in receiving a large donation from a wealthy friend which enables us to close our books in a satisfactory fashion, but we cannot expect to repeat this. The final test which must be applied to the value of our work is that it should be self-supporting. We appeal to our supporters to help us to realise that ideal during 1923-4.

INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY INFORMATION COMMITTEE, 1922-23

Receipts and Payments for the Year, March 1st, 1922-23

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.	
To Balance	299	6	3	13	6	6	57	14	1
," Subscriptions	169	14	4				72	11	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
," Affiliation Fees	390	0	6				849	3	11
," Donations				859	1	1			
FEES FOR WORK DONE—													
Voting Records	28	7	0				300	7	2
Other Work	21	7	2				32	11	1
								49	14	2			
								14	3	2			
Publication Sales							23	6	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
N.A.C. GRANTS—											41	18	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
1921-22	50	0	0				5	13	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
1922-23	300	0	0				57	3	2
Parliamentary	150	0	0				8	16	5
General Election Notes	20	0	0				8	10	3
								520	0	0			
											1457	16	2
," Loan				1456	4	11			
								50	0	0			
											48	8	9
					£1506	4	11				£1506	4	11

We have examined the accounts and payments comprised in this account, and to the best of our knowledge and belief they are correct.

March 14th, 1923.

(Signed) HAROLD WRATTEN, A.L.A.A.
T. W. WYATT.

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TITLE**